

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: March 8, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on March 2, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Five-Year Review Report Completed, Mason County Landfill
Superfund Site, Ludington, Michigan**

In February 2001, a Five-Year Review Report was completed and signed by United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Superfund Division Director William E. Muno for the Mason County Landfill Superfund site in Ludington, Michigan. The report was based on a site inspection which was completed during November 2000, and confirmed that the remedy remains protective of both human health and the environment.

The Mason County Landfill site remedy involves a 1993 Record of Decision and 1994 Consent Decree, which requires Mason County to be responsible for performing landfill cap and groundwater monitoring operation & maintenance for a 30 year period. The landfill has been closed since 1978.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

U.S. EPA Concerns (Proposal for Termination of Depleted Uranium License), U.S. Army Jefferson Proving Ground Site, Madison, Indiana

On February 6, 2001, Remedial Project Manager (RPM) Karen Mason-Smith attended a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting in Madison, Indiana, and provided several U.S. EPA concerns with the Army's proposal for termination of their depleted uranium (DU) license at Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) during the public record comment session on JPG's DU Summary Sheet. DU is slightly radioactive (gamma and alpha emitter), pyrophoric, and a toxic heavy metal. The Army is coordinating with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and a community group (Save the Valley) to terminate a license for the storage in-place of DU at JPG. JPG has to prepare and submit a revised License Termination and Institutional Control Plan for Depleted Uranium to Save the Valley by February 16, 2001, and to NRC by June 1, 2001.

Some of U.S. EPA's concerns presented at the February 6, 2001, RAB meeting include: 1) further inquiry and study of the health risks of DU is warranted rather than dismissing it, because of the recent debate of the potential impact of DU on North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops in the Balkans, 2) there is current controversy that plutonium may be mixed in DU, 3) the 2000-acre DU Impact Area at JPG is suspected to contain approximately 70,000 kilograms of DU, which is a potential occupational carcinogen according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards, and 4) JPG's proposal to remove and abandon the current groundwater monitoring wells, therefore, eliminating the ability to monitor whether the DU is exiting off of the military base.

Contact: Karen Mason-Smith (312-886-6150)

Stakeholder Meeting, Lake Calumet Cluster Sites, Chicago, Illinois

On March 6, 2001, the Lake Calumet Cluster Sites Group met to discuss site status and activities on the Cluster sites and adjacent sites. During the Summer of 2000, sampling activities were conducted as a joint effort by the City of Chicago Department of the Environment (CDOE), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), and U.S. EPA. Over 150 test pits were sampled and analyzed for a full range of chemicals. Data is currently being evaluated by the CDOE and a Report will be completed mid-Spring. A Human Risk Assessment will also be completed by CDOE and the Ecological Risk Assessment will be completed in May of 2001 by U.S. EPA. Illinois EPA will be

taking all this information and preparing a Feasibility Study to evaluate alternatives for a cleanup action. The redevelopment and restoration goals for the site include a proposed energy farm with solar panels and small gas generation plant combined with feasible ecological restoration.

An update for activities on the adjacent sites was also provided: Paxton Landfills (I and II) and Indian Ridge Marsh restoration. The next meeting will take place in May 2001.

The Cluster Sites Group is formed by local community members, environmental groups, local, State and Federal agencies.

Contacts: Rosita Clarke-Moreno (312-886-7251)
Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Commonwealth Edison Brownfield Web Site, Northern Illinois

In February 2001, Deborah Orr and Bob Warda met with Steve Tribuzzi and Cheryl Hyman of Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), a regional electrical utility company in northern Illinois, to discuss ComEd's interactive mapping web site. This web site, fully funded by ComEd, enables interested parties to: zoom in on northern Illinois' expanding Brownfield real estate market; locate former Brownfield sites that are being developed by property owners and local units of government; and, map out these exciting new opportunities and their proximity to interstate highways, commercial freight-lines, airports, and local incentives, such as Tax Increment Financing Districts and Enterprise Zones. U.S. EPA Region 5 will use this web site as another tool in Brownfields redevelopment in northern Illinois by promoting ComEd's efforts to the communities and by facilitating coordination between the communities and ComEd. The web site is available at <http://www.brownfields-comed.com>. ComEd is currently expanding site eligibility based in part upon our meeting.

Contacts: Bob Warda (312-353-2112)
Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

SPCC Presentation, Northern Michigan Waterways Hazardous Material Spills Planning Committee 11th Annual Conference, Traverse City, Michigan

On February 14, 2001, Barb Carr, Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) Coordinator, spoke at the 11th Annual Northern Michigan Waterways Hazardous Material Spills Planning Committee (No Spills) Conference in Traverse City, Michigan. The No Spills Committee was created in 1990 to serve as a coordination and education organization for potential hazardous spills into the Great Lakes. Under the Area Contingency Plan, this committee assists the U.S. Coast Guard, and is also involved in inland waterway and lake concerns. It serves all member agencies within the boundaries of Northern Michigan.

This statewide annual conference provides updates in spill technologies, response and recovery, and shares valuable information by exploring actual incidents. Approximately 100 people were in attendance representing Federal, State and County agencies, local emergency planning committees, business, and industry.

Dr. Carr's presentation included: an Overview of the SPCC Regulation (40 CFR 112), the Components on an SPCC Plan, What to Expect During an Inspection, the Financial and Legal Impacts of a Spill or Plan Violation, and the Status of the Revisions to the SPCC Regulation (the New Rule). Attendee response was extremely positive: the discussion and written information was helpful in putting the regulation into practical terms and providing an update on the long-awaited New Rule.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

Agency Participation, Regional Science Fair, Chicago, Illinois

On January 31, 2001, Barb Carr (Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Coordinator) was one of fourteen volunteer judges from U.S. EPA Region 5 at the Region 3 and 4 Science Fair held at the West Side Technical Institute in Chicago, Illinois. The fair is held annually and includes high schools in Regions 3 and 4 within the City of Chicago. About 120 students competed with exhibits, models, demonstrations, papers, and oral presentations. There were about 50 judges from government, business, industry, and academia. The best science projects from the Region 3 and 4 Science Fair will go on to the city-wide fair, which is to be held at the Museum of Science and Industry from March 29 to

April 1, 2001. The hosts of the fair presented U.S. EPA Region 5 volunteers with a plaque in appreciation of their assistance.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

Redevelopment Conference, Superior, Wisconsin

On February 13, 2001, Jane Neumann spoke on a brownfields panel at a redevelopment conference sponsored by the City of Superior, Wisconsin. The conference, which attracted more than 75 participants, including City, County and State officials, bankers, developers, environmental consultants and real estate brokers, focused on the dual challenges of brownfields and wetlands which face this City on the tip of Lake Superior. The large and diverse showing generated a great deal of interest in pursuing brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.

Contact: Jane Neumann (312-353-0123)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation, Department of Natural Resources, State of Wisconsin

The following letter, dated February 28, 2001, was received from Mark F. Giesfeldt, Director, Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, "I wanted to take this opportunity, both from me and my staff, to express our appreciation for Suzanne (Sue) Coll. We have worked for many years with Sue and she has a lot to do with the positive working relationship our two programs have. She is always responsive to our needs and represents our perspectives well.

Often, we only recognize people when they move on in their careers. Sue is a special person that we are fortunate to work with and we wanted you to know that. Please share this note with Sue and all the managers in your office that we work with."

Contact: Mark F. Giesfeldt (608-266-2621)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
 Steve Luftig (OSWER)
 Larry Reed (OERR)
 Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
 Craig Beasley (OSWER)
 Michael Shapiro (OSWER)

Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers